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MAY MEETING, 1879.

A stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 8th instant, at 11 o'clock A.M. The President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, having returned from his trip to the South, resumed the chair.

The record of the Annual Meeting was read and approved.

The Librarian read the monthly list of donors to the Library. He called attention to some rare and curious Confederate publications, the gift of our associate Mr. Amos A. Lawrence. He presented also two applications to copy from manuscripts in the Society's possession, and upon his motion, leave was granted, under the rules, to the Rev. A. P. Putnam to copy from the Hutchinson Orderly Book, and to Mr. Henry P. Johnston to copy from the Heath Papers.

The Cabinet-keeper reported that he had received for the Cabinet from the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia a bronze medal struck in honor of their President, Mr. Eli K. Price; that Mrs. L. A. Bradbury had presented a water-color drawing of the Stephen Palmer house in Brattle Street, Cambridge, which she had copied from a picture that had been in the possession of her family many years; and that several members and friends of the Society had purchased the interesting picture of the upper part of State Street, Boston, painted by J. B. Marston about 1800, and exhibited at a meeting last year, and it now made a valuable addition to the Cabinet.*

The Corresponding Secretary reported that Mr. William W. Greenough had accepted his election as a Resident Member, and was present at the meeting.

The President then said:—

In resuming the chair to-day, Gentlemen, I am reminded that I owe the Society both apologies and acknowledgments: — apologies for my absence from the last two meetings, and acknowledgments for my re-election to the Presidency. I am sure, however, that I need not take up much time on these topics. It is enough to say, that I was at St. Augustine on the day of the March meeting, and had only reached Washington, on my return, at the date of the Annual Meeting, last

* See Proceedings for February, 1878, p. 88.—Eds.

month ;— my detention having been the result of circumstances beyond my own control. Meantime, no formal phrases can be needed to assure you of my grateful sense of the honor of presiding over you once more. Another Annual Meeting will find me, if, in the providence of God, it finds me here at all, at the close of a service, as your President, of a full quarter of a century. I will not anticipate that day ; but it behooves the Society, and certainly it becomes me, to bear in mind, that such a service can hardly be much longer protracted.

I can, perhaps, do nothing better this morning, than to recall a few incidents of my Southern tour, which have relation to historical pursuits and to those engaged in them in other parts of the country. I lost no opportunity of acquainting myself with the condition of our sister societies, in the States through which I passed. I did not fall in with the Historical Society of Florida, and am not sure where it is established. But I picked up at St. Augustine an excellent little work, entitled "The Spaniards in Florida," by George R. Fairbanks, who is styled on the title-page Vice-President of the Florida Historical Society, and who is, or has recently been, Professor of History in the University of the South in Tennessee. The Preface, dated in 1868, expresses the author's hope to publish at no distant day a more complete history of Florida, and perhaps he has already done so. Meantime, I present this little volume to our Library.

My first visit of this sort was to the rooms of the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah. They have a noble hall, bearing the name of the late William B. Hodgson, formerly known personally to some of us, and distinguished as an Oriental linguist and scholar. The hall was erected to his memory by his widow and her sister, Miss Telfair, both since dead, and was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies during our Centennial year, on occasion of the thirty-seventh Anniversary of the Society. The pamphlet in my hand contains a fine photograph of the interior of the hall, together with the Address of my valued friend General Henry R. Jackson, the accomplished President of the Society. The portraits and the library — in which I was glad to recognize a full set of our own publications — are admirably arranged and cared for, and the whole establishment affords evidence of a lively interest in historical researches. During the last year, a new volume of Collections has been published, containing an elaborate account of what are called "The Dead Towns of Georgia," — "Old and New Ebenezer,"

“Frederica,” “Sunbury,” and others,—in which there are many allusions to Oglethorpe and Whitefield, and to our own New England General, Nathanael Greene. I could not help calling attention to the fact, that no name or date had ever yet been inscribed on the granite monument to General Greene, which has long stood in one of the principal squares of Savannah, and it may be hoped that such an inscription, if it be nothing but the name, may not be indefinitely postponed.

Of the South Carolina Society I can speak with less satisfaction. Their library seems to have been sadly scattered during the late War, and all that is left of it occupies a small space in the old Charleston Library. The Secretary, Mr. Kennedy Bryan, intimated that it would give them pleasure to receive any part of our publications which we could spare, and I trust that the suggestion will not long be without response. The Society has something more than a name to live, and since my return home I have received from Professor F. A. Porcher, who has succeeded the late noble-hearted Petigru, as President, a copy of his valuable Memoir of General Christopher Gadsden,—one of the Patriots of the days of Washington,—“the magnanimous, unwavering, faultless lover of his country,” as Bancroft calls him,—published by the Society during the past year.

The library of the Old Virginia Historical Society, of which our friend Mr. Grigsby is President, is no longer where I saw it last (1859), in the State House at Richmond, but has been stored away in another part of the city, awaiting ampler accommodations, which are confidently anticipated at no distant day. It is in contemplation, I learned, to erect a building under the auspices, and perhaps at the cost, of the State of Virginia, in which the new “Southern Historical Society,”—including in its organization all the late Confederate States,—and the old State Society of Virginia, shall have rooms under a common roof. This “Southern Historical Society,” which for the present has its principal office in the Capitol at Richmond, is making notable progress in the work to which it is specially devoted. It has already completed six annual volumes, published in monthly serials, and at least four serial parts of a seventh volume,—all containing materials for the history of the late War from Southern sources. I know not how many of these volumes are already in our Library. I take pleasure in presenting the four later serials, as I procured them last month. The whole ought certainly to form part of that collection relating to the Civil

War, which we have owed, and are daily owing, to the thoughtful liberality of our associate, Mr. Amos A. Lawrence. It may be important hereafter to a just illustration of our own Union soldiers, that we should know precisely what is said and written and printed by those, and of those, to whom we were so unhappily opposed. We can have nothing but respect for such a design to do justice to those who fought against us so bravely,—but we may well be interested in seeing that no injustice to our own dead or living heroes shall be inadvertently done.

Coming farther North, I made a point of visiting the rooms of the Maryland Historical Society at Baltimore; the Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia; and the New York Historical Society in the city of New York. I was most glad to find them all in evident prosperity, with ample accommodations for their libraries, and picture galleries, and works of art, and actively engaged in preparing Papers and volumes for the press. The fire-proof chamber of the Pennsylvania Society, with its carefully arranged volumes of precious manuscripts, is specially worthy of commendation. The New York Society has recently printed no less than four new volumes,—two of them containing an account of the Days of the Revolution, from the Diary of a Loyalist, Thomas Jones, a copy of which is on our table this morning, and which may prove hardly less interesting and instructive than our own Sewall Diary, of which we may soon expect to see a second volume.

And thus, as by your favor the President of this old Mother Society, the Alpha of the whole Union, I have paid a visit to each of the six societies which I have named, and have in all cases assured their officers of the interest we take in their welfare, and of our earnest desire, by communication and exchanges, to co-operate with them in illustrating the history of our common country. If good Dr. Jeremy Belknap and his associates, whose earliest proceedings are before us to-day in the beautiful volume just prepared by Dr. Deane, could have foreseen the palmy condition of our own Society at this hour, and the multitude of kindred associations which have sprung up under the influence of its example, he and they would be amply rewarded for the labors to which this volume of our earliest Proceedings bears such signal testimony.

Let me not fail to refer, in this connection, to the auspicious establishment of a new Historical Society in the State of Kentucky, which has recently held its first Annual Meeting at Frankfort, with the Governor of the State as its President,

by whose favor a fire-proof room in the Capitol has been secured for its archives. The Proceedings of the Society, on this Anniversary occasion, as published in the "Kentucky Yeoman" of February 15th, afford ample evidence of the deep interest which has already been excited in its prosperity and progress, and I am sure we shall all be glad to welcome it to our fraternity, and to extend to it every encouragement in our power.

I must not omit to mention, before concluding these somewhat desultory remarks, that in company with Mr. Frederic De Peyster, the worthy President of the New York Historical Society, I attended the funeral, on the 24th ult., of our Honorary Member, General Dix. It took place at Trinity Church, New York, of which his son Dr. Morgan Dix is the rector, and of which he had long been a vestryman or warden. Few more impressive ceremonials have been witnessed on our side of the Atlantic,—attended, as it was, by a throng of the most distinguished men of that great commercial metropolis.

General Dix, I need not say, was eminently worthy of all the honors which were paid to his memory. Born in 1798, during the presidency of John Adams, whose name he bore, — while Washington was still living, — his life covered almost the whole period of our Constitutional history; and from his boyhood, I had almost said, he had been something more than a witness of the progress of that history. He was hardly more than fourteen years of age when he first entered on the military service of the country, and he soon afterward became an *aide-de-camp* of General Brown during our war with Great Britain. Since that time he has held numerous offices of the highest responsibility, both State and National, including those of Governor of New York, Senator of the United States, Secretary of the Treasury, Minister to France, and Major-General of the Army of the Union during the late War.

Through the whole of his long life, of more than fourscore years, he was a singularly useful man, willing and able to serve his fellow-citizens, and to serve his Commonwealth and Country, in any post for which his services might be demanded. His well-remembered order while a member of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet, — "If any one attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot," — will secure him a page in history when all his other services and sayings are forgotten, and richly entitled him to request that the flag of his country should be, as it was, his only pall.

I was a near neighbor of his, while we were serving in different branches of Congress, and I saw much of him more recently in Paris, while he was Minister to France. I am thus able to bear witness to his personal amiability and his many accomplishments. Our own Society was indebted to him in 1862 for a gift of some interesting Memorials of the War, while he was in command at Baltimore. He sent us also the little volume containing his excellent translation of the "Dies Iræ," while he was at Old Point Comfort or Fortress Monroe, in Virginia, in 1863. He said of it strikingly, in the preface : "It is the fruit of leisure moments gained from the hard service of the camp, on rebel soil, but within Union entrenchments. If, in the ages of paganism, the strings of the Lesbian lyre might be, not unworthily, swept by hands inured to arms, . . . a soldier in a Christian age may not less worthily find relief from the asperities of war in themes more congenial with the higher dispensations which he is, by the providence of God, permitted to share."

The termination of a life of such valuable and varied service could not occur without calling forth, as it has done, every manifestation of local and National respect and gratitude, in which our own Society, of which he has been an Honorary Member for nearly twenty years, may well have united.

The Rev. Dr. LOTHROP said :—

Mr. President,—I rise to say a very few words upon two points: First to thank you, Sir, in my own behalf, and, as I am confident I may in behalf of all the gentlemen present, for the very interesting address you have just read to us. We missed you during your absence, though your place was admirably filled by our first Vice-President, Mr. Adams, and our social re-union at his house the other day, after our Annual Meeting, was one of the pleasant incidents of the winter, which all enjoyed and will long remember; but Mr. Adams will, I am sure, unite with all of us in the expression of our satisfaction in welcoming your return to the chair, whose duties you have discharged for so many years with such a graceful, courteous dignity, and an efficiency which has so largely contributed to the prosperity and usefulness of our Society.

We feel ourselves fully repaid for your absence by the exceedingly interesting account you have just given of the condition, prospects, and purposes of the Historical Societies

of some of the States you have recently visited, particularly those of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland; your visits to those institutions, and interviews with their officers and members was a good service rendered us, and as useful, we may well believe, as it must have been gratifying, to them. We thank you for the extent to which you represented us to those Societies, for the valuable information you have given us, and I feel confident that the wise suggestions you have made in regard to the duty and importance of cultivating cordial relations with the Historical Societies of those and of other States, of more frequent correspondence, and a more intimate knowledge of their proceedings and efforts,—that we mutually incite each other to fidelity and good works,—will be appreciated by our Society, and under your guidance lead to beneficial results.

The other purpose for which I rose, Sir, was to thank you for your eloquent tribute to the memory of the late General Dix,—one of our Honorary Members,—and to express my hearty sympathy with your just delineation and appreciation of his life, character, and public services. I am prompted to do this because my reminiscences of General Dix reach back probably to an earlier period than those of any of our associates present. I remember I first heard the name and saw the person of John A. Dix in 1812, when he and my cousin, his life-long friend, Charles P. Kirkland, had to leave the school which they had been attending in Montreal, in consequence of the war between England and the United States,—and from that time, sixty-seven years ago, his name, and fame, and power, as he has risen higher and higher in public estimation and public usefulness, have been familiar to me. In later years, I have had a measure of personal intimacy with him, both at Washington and at Paris, and was among the number of those who were honored with a presentation copy of his translation of the “*Dies Iræ*,” to which you have alluded, and which, considering the circumstances under which it was written, in that politically dark and gloomy winter of the Civil War, when he was in command of Fortress Monroe, and considering the character of the version itself, its accuracy, and its exact correspondence with the original, in the number of the lines and the measure of the verse, must be regarded as one of the best and most remarkable translations of that famous hymn of the Latin Church. I never read it without a feeling of reverence and admiration for the scholar, as strong as for the patriot soldier and statesman.

When he was Governor of New York, I had occasion to write to him personally in regard to a Boston boy, who had brought himself under legal condemnation,— and through this and other cases in which I felt some interest, I was led to notice the mingled firmness, independence, and mercifulness with which he exercised the prerogatives of his office toward criminals. No man could stand firmer than he against all persuasion or intimidation, when he felt convinced that the interests and safety of the public demanded that the penalty of crime should be inflicted, or be more tender and sympathetic in cases where wisdom and mercy could unite in granting release or pardon. But I beg pardon, Sir,— I did not mean to detain the meeting so long. I merely wished to express my hearty concurrence in what you have so well said of General Dix, whose career has been fortunate, whose services have been valuable, and who leaves behind him an unblemished name and honorable memory.

Mr. DEANE communicated the gift from Mr. W. F. Poole of Chicago, of a heliotype *fac-simile* of the rare map belonging to the 1632 edition of Champlain's Voyages. He communicated also a bundle of letters, thirteen in number, written by the Rev. Dr. Jenks, then residing in Bath, to the Rev. Dr. John Eliot of Boston, the gift of Mr. John F. Eliot. These letters are familiarly written and show a warm friendship for Mr. Eliot and a great interest in his literary and historical labors. In one Dr. Jenks sends an elaborate account of Roman coins, which he hopes to secure for a museum at Bowdoin College. In another he sends the epitaph which he had prepared for the tombstone of President McKeen, whose eulogy he had delivered also. This may be found in Alden's Collection of American Epitaphs, where it is number 160 of the first volume.

The letter here printed was written in fulfilment of a promise to prepare an account of Governor Jenks for Dr. Eliot's Biographical Dictionary. But it reached Boston too late to be used by Dr. Eliot for this purpose, his work having been given already to the press. Many years afterward Dr. Jenks prepared an account of the Jenks family, containing much the same information about the Governor, in the form of a letter to Alonzo Lewis, the historian of Lynn. This, with some corrections, he finally published, in 1855, in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. ix. pp. 201–206.

BATH, June 21, 1809.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I have been waiting several months in the hope of receiving the favor of a line, having written twice since hearing directly. But as the papers now inform of the progress of the biographical work, which has been so long expected, I suppose the labors necessary to bring forward that important undertaking must preclude attention to minor subjects. This very circumstance, however, urges me to write immediately, in order to fulfil, as well as I am able, the duty I had imposed on myself, and to ask your kind attention to one or two articles, which otherwise might be overlooked.

I promised an account of Governor Jenks, and I wished exceedingly to procure documents sufficient for a similar account of Governor Haynes. But I fail in both. Yet perhaps the few following hints may throw a little light on the matter, and can do no harm by being communicated in this manner.

Joseph Jenks, first a magistrate, says Backus, of Rhode Island (and his catalogue names 1680 * as the year) then Deputy-Governor, Agent in England for the Colony, and finally Governor, was born at Warwick, R. I., in 1656. His father of the same name was born in England, being eldest son of Mr. Joseph Jenks of Hammersmith, near London, who settled in Lynn, Massachusetts, and followed the making and manufacturing of iron, as a family business; for it was transmitted to all his children, and is still retained by his descendants. His grandson, the Governor, wrought in it at Pawtucket Falls, or North Providence, where his father settled, on leaving Lynn and Warwick, and with the virtuous republicanism of former times returned to it again after bearing some of the first offices of the State. From 1715 to 1720, and from 1723 to 1727, he was Deputy-Governor. In the latter year he was elected chief magistrate, which office he held till 1732, when, at the age of seventy-six, he thought it expedient to resign, "not because," said he to friends, who pressed him to retain it longer, "I feel now unable the last year to perform its duties; but because when the infirmities of age incapacitate me, I may be unwilling to acknowledge it, and would therefore retire while my judgment is sound." He lived eight years after this,† and died in 1740. Several of his letters are retained by Dr. Backus, in his history of the Baptists, and his papers assisted much in the compilation of that work. His wife was daughter of the celebrated Chad Brown, who went from Salem and founded the opulent family of that name at Providence. The two families indeed were afterward closely connected by various intermarriages, and their adherence to the Baptist cause is warmly acknowledged by the historian named above.

Governor Jenks was the eldest of nine children, four sons and five daughters, most of whom lived to be old. His sister Joanna, wife of

* Hence I am inclined to think it might be his father, who died in 1716.—*Marginal Note.*

† During which my grandfather, who was his cousin, visited him from Lynn.—*Marginal Note.*

Major Sylvanus Scott, died 1756, aet. 85. Nathaniel, his brother, in 1723, aet. 61. Ebenezer, an Elder among the Baptists, and father of Judge Daniel Jenks, whose posterity live in Providence, died in 1726, aet. 57; and the Hon. William Jenks, Esq., his youngest brother, and a Senator of the State, in 1765, aet. 91. All these have left posterity, as did the four sisters not named.

In the family burying ground, at Pawtucket, where the father of the Governor purchased a large tract of land, near the falls, the following epitaph is inscribed on a common grave-stone, which I fear will not long preserve the memory it was designed to perpetuate, since it is already broken. I therefore transcribe it with the greater alacrity: —

In memory of y^e Hon. JOSEPH JENCKS,
Esq. late Gouvernour of y^e Colony of Rhode
Island, Deceased y^e 15th Day of June A.D.
1740, in y^e 84th year of his age. He was
much Honour'd & Beloved in Life & La-
mented in Death: He was a bright Example
of Virtue in every Stage of Life: He was a
Zealous Christian: a Wise & Prudent Gover-
nour, a kind Husband, a Tender Father, a
good Neighbour, & a Faithful Friend:
Grave, Sober, Pleasant in Behaviour, Beau-
tiful in Person, with a Soul truely
Great, Heroick & sweetly Tempered.

I know not whether any use can be made of this imperfect sketch. Backus alone mentions the man, who was it seems, too good to be forgotten, and I have not the last two volumes of his history, or I could be more particular.

Of Governor Haynes Dr. Trumbull gives an account in pages 223, and 224 especially, of his history of Connecticut. My attention was attracted to this account principally from his saying that the name is extinct. Now my mother, Mary Haynes, it was ever said in our family and in hers, descended from this excellent Puritan. I have felt unwilling to give up the honor of such a pedigree, but am not able to contradict Dr. Trumbull. All the family papers were carried by Mr. Samuel Haynes, whom, Sir, you knew, to St. Croix, and are doubtless lost. I suspect, however, that Aquila, father of Samuel, father to my mother, may have been brother of John Haynes, magistrate of Connecticut, son of the Rev. Joseph, and grandson of the Governor; but know not.

In an article on Sir William Pepperell, would it afford information to be told that he married the eldest daughter of Grove Hirst, a merchant of Boston, and grand-daughter of Judge Sewall? It seems she was a pious, discreet, benevolent lady, dignified in her deportment, and industrious and careful in her habits, worthy of her excellent father and of the rank of her husband. Dr. Colman published a sermon on Mr. Hirst's death, and added some of his private writings, such as extracts from his diary and a few letters, which exhibit him a pious exemplary character. His book, a little mutilated, I have.

I take the liberty to inclose for your acceptance a discourse of mine which the people of Freeport have lately published. We have nothing materially new, except that both the parishes in Bath are, for the current year, placed under my care, and the two pulpits alternately used. My time is greatly occupied, and my health appears to require some little relaxation of labor. I hope I may be able to visit Boston before winter. In the mean time, with our warmest wishes for your health and happiness, and that of your family,

I remain, dear Sir, your respectful,
obliged servant, and affectionate friend,

WILLIAM JENKS.

Mr. DEANE said also that he wished to report from the Committee on the early Proceedings of the Society. He thought it would be remembered that a committee, consisting of Mr. Charles C. Smith and himself, were appointed at the April meeting last year to prepare one or more volumes from the earliest records of the Society down to 1855, from which year the Proceedings hitherto printed began. The Committee had now one volume to lay upon the table embracing the doings of the Society from its institution in February, 1791 to March, 1835. It was thought that one more volume would fill the gap between that year and 1855. A pretty full Introduction to the volume would give the necessary explanations as to the plan the editors had adopted in doing their work. Portraits of the founders of the Society, and *fac-similes* of their handwriting, and also representations of the buildings which the Society occupied, had been included in the volume. Also, Memoirs of deceased members, that remained to be written, had been supplied. Quite a number of these had been written by his colleague Mr. Smith, who had also procured the principal part of the remainder to be prepared. The Society's acknowledgments were due to those gentlemen who had so promptly responded to this request of the committee. Ample notes had been made to the text, and letters and documents on file given where they were thought to serve to illustrate the records and impart useful information.

The Rev. Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, in proposing a vote of thanks to this Committee, said:—

I feel under a peculiar obligation to propose that a proper recognition be made of the valuable service rendered to us by our associates, Messrs. Deane and Smith, in the com-

pletion of this volume, containing the *origines* of the society. I say this because there is an entry on our records, dated many years ago, from which it might seem as if I had myself been committed to the performance of the severe task, by the suggestion of our President. Professional duties at the time precluded my undertaking it, and I have since found other work for the Society sufficient to occupy all my leisure. But when the work was proposed to me I made such a cursory examination of the materials in our cabinets, brief records, piles of papers, and fragmentary memorials of the past, as to satisfy myself that the preparation for the press, with needful illustrations, annotations, and other editorial helps, would require not only much time and research, but also a recourse to contemporary sources of information outside of our walls. It was to me a matter of regret that the work had not been undertaken during the lifetime of our late President, Mr. Savage, so that his memories of our first founders and members might yield information difficult now to reclaim and certify.

There should be joined by us in our acknowledgments to the editors an expression of our gratitude to our Recording Secretary, Mr. Dexter, for his labor of love in the preparation of the index which unlocks the treasures of this volume. Greatly favored is the Society in these years of its prosperity — may they be long continued — in having a few members whose circumstances allow them to spend the working hours of each day within these walls, searching our stores, and giving us in an authentic and instructive, as well as in an attractive form, the results of their investigations, not only from our own cabinets, but from their rich private libraries. When the members at their leisure come to turn over the pages of the volume now distributed among us, they will be glad to feel that our record bears an expression of our appreciation of what has been done for us.

The thanks of the Society were voted to this Committee for the volume prepared by them; and to the Recording Secretary for the index to the same.

Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., A.M., of Boston was elected a Resident Member; and Franklin B. Dexter, A.M., Professor of American History and Assistant Librarian in Yale College, New Haven, and General John M. Brown of Portland, Maine, Corresponding Members.

Mr. GODDARD presented the following resolutions in compliance with a vote of the Council:—

The Massachusetts Historical Society hereby expresses its cordial sympathy with the efforts now in progress, under the auspices of the Bennington Monument Association, to build a suitable monument in commemoration of the victory achieved under General Stark at Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777.

The battle of Bennington, in its effect upon the spirits of the patriots throughout New England, and upon the course of Burgoyne's campaign, may be justly held to have turned the tide of success from the British to the American side, and to have signally contributed to the defeat of Burgoyne's army, thereby hastening the open friendship and alliance of France, and giving direction and impulse to the succession of memorable events ending in the Independence of the colonies.

The purpose of the monument association to make this memorial both a national monument and an enduring work of art, creditable to the national taste and worthy of an event of so great national importance, commends its efforts to the good will of every American citizen, and especially to the citizens of Massachusetts, which contributed to the battle so gallant and brave soldiers as Colonel Benjamin Simonds and his men.

In offering these resolutions, Mr. Goddard said that such an expression of interest and sympathy seemed appropriate, as an act of courtesy to a society engaged in a useful historical work, and especially because there was a tendency, as time passed on, to undervalue historical events, and to lose sight of many important incidents illustrating them. This was peculiarly the case with what is known in our revolutionary annals as "the battle of Bennington,"—recent writers attaching too little significance to the victory achieved there, and many of them ignoring altogether the fact that Massachusetts had any part in it whatever. Our school histories and nearly all the popular compendiums of history are more or less at fault in this respect. Thus Worcester's "Elements of History" [Boston, 1878], now very generally used in the schools of Massachusetts, says:—

"While at Fort Edward, Burgoyne sent a detachment of 500 English troops and 100 Indians under Colonel Baum to destroy a collection of stores at Bennington in Vermont. . . . On the 16th August, General Stark, with about 800 *Vermont and New Hampshire militia*, killed and took prisoners the most of this detachment."

Equally vague and inadequate is the narrative in Quackenbos's "Illustrated School History of the United States" [New York, 1871], also used in many of our schools:—

"Burgoyne, finding it difficult to obtain provisions and hearing that the Americans had large supplies at Bennington, sent Colonel Baum thither with 500 regulars and tories and a number of Indians to seize whatever he could find. A few miles from Bennington, Baum was met by General Stark *with a body of New Hampshire militia* and such volunteers as could be hastily raised. The two armies came in sight of each other on the 15th of August, but a violent rain prevented them from engaging. A minister who had come with part of his flock to strike a blow for his country was impatient at the delay, but Stark comforted him with the promise that if the next day was clear he should have fighting enough, and he kept his word."

This minister was Parson Allen of Pittsfield, and his flock were the praying farmers of that neighborhood who went with him at the first summons, "resolved," as Mr. Everett said in his life of Stark, "to make bare the arm of flesh against the enemies of their country." Parson Allen's part in the fight and his own account of it, written the night after, printed first in the Connecticut Courant of August 25, 1777, and many times reprinted, are among the most familiar incidents of that event.

"A Grammar School History of the United States," by J. J. Anderson, Ph.D. [New York, 1879], now used in the schools of Bennington, and doubtless in other towns in Vermont, says:—

"Burgoyne, having arrived at Fort Edward and finding himself in want of supplies, sent 500 men under Colonel Baum to seize the stores which the Americans had collected at Bennington. Baum was met near Bennington by the *New Hampshire militia* under General Stark and defeated; and on the same day, August 16, a detachment which had been sent to the aid of Baum was also defeated."

Colonel T. W. Higginson's "Young Folks' History of the United States" [Boston, 1876], one of the best of the popular histories of its class, says:—

"General Burgoyne, with a part of the British army, invaded the New England States through Canada in 1777, issuing a proclamation inviting the Indians to join him. He passed along Lake Champlain, took Fort Ticonderoga, and afterward sent a large detachment to destroy military stores at Bennington. There it was attacked by General Stark *with a militia force from Vermont and New Hampshire*. . . . The Americans carried the day."

None of these books make any allusion, even the most distant, to the fact that Massachusetts had a soldier in the fight, although the facts are as well attested as any part of the history of that period. "The exertions of the people of Berkshire county were extraordinary on this occasion and merited them particular honor," said the orator at the first Bennington celebration in 1778, the year following the battle. Further reference was made to contemporary records and especially to the muster rolls of Berkshire men still preserved in the State archives in Boston. The following extracts from a private letter by Professor Perry of Williams College, who has given especial attention to this subject, were also read:—

WILLIAMS COLLEGE, Feb. 19, 1879.

MY DEAR SIR,— Since my interview with you the other day, I have been thinking a good deal about the Bennington battle monument, and the relations of our Berkshire county people to that commemorative shaft, whatever it may be. The simple truth is, that the part which Berkshire played in that battle has been hitherto grossly underestimated. It is now certain from the contemporary pay-rolls at Boston that more than 500 Berkshire men were on the field during the two fights, having been mustered in on the 14th of August and drawing pay from that date. Besides these, several companies, or parts of companies, were mustered in on the 15th and 16th, and, of course, did not arrive in season. Besides, Colonel Simonds, Lieutenant-Colonel Rossiter, and Major Stratton, all of Berkshire, are particularized in Parson Allen's account of the fight for enterprising conduct as officers. Under these circumstances, and in view of these indisputable facts, Berkshire proposes to claim and secure hereafter her share in the glory of Bennington battle and its grand results. I believe, also, that the county will do its full share toward fitly commemorating, on the site of the old continental store-house, the promptness, the courage, and the persistence of the 'embattled farmers' of the three States.

ARTHUR L. PERRY.

In closing, Mr. Goddard moved the adoption of the resolutions, and they were passed unanimously.

Mr. DEANE, from the Committee to whom the Savage Papers, presented by Mrs. Rogers in June, 1873, were referred, reported that these papers had been arranged in folio volumes, and lettered "Savage Papers; Genealogical, I. II. III. IV.: Miscellaneous." He exhibited also a copy of the following warrant for the apprehension of one Sarah Jones, sent to him by Mr. George S. Hale, who thought the original could be obtained for the Society. He was ignorant of

the charges against this woman, and had not been able to find any information concerning her.

To Thomas Robinson, Constable of Salem:— You are required to make diligent search after Sarah Jones who is escaped out of Boston prison, to examine rooms, to break open any doors that will not be opened to you, and her to return to Boston to the Deputy Governor, for which this shall be your Warrant.

21 A^{mo}. 62.

By me W^M HATHORNE.

The President exhibited a photograph from a portrait of Captain John Nelson, who was prominent in the capture of Governor Andros in 1689. This portrait belongs to Mr. Henry Lloyd, of Lloyd's Neck, Long Island, and is interesting, because an inscription upon the canvas corrects an error in Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary." It is stated there that Captain Nelson died probably 4 Dec., 1721. This inscription reads, "ætatis suæ, 78. 1732." The portrait in other respects agrees with the one well known in Boston.

The Recording Secretary communicated, for Mr. A. T. PERKINS, some additional notes on the portraits by Blackburn and Smibert.*

The following pictures were painted by Blackburn:—

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK.—There is said to be a fine portrait of this distinguished gentleman, for many years a resident of Stonington, Conn., signed J. Blackburn, and dated 1756. Its present ownership is unknown.

MRS. JAMES OTIS.—She was the wife of the Patriot, and her maiden name was Ruth Cunningham. Her father was Nathaniel Cunningham.

This portrait, a companion to that of her husband mentioned in the Proceedings for December, 1878, p. 390, is a half-length in an oval, and represents a handsome young woman with fine dark eyes, and dark hair without powder but ornamented with pearls. Her dress is white satin, with lace and pearls in the neck; the sleeves are looped up with pearls and trimmed with lace. A blue mantle falls from her shoulders.

Both this picture and the portrait of James Otis are finely painted, and excellent specimens of the artist's best manner. They are signed J. Blackburn, and dated 1755, in the left-hand corner of each.

They are in the possession of Mrs. E. S. Rogers of Boston.

MRS. JUDGE VINAL.—This lady was before marriage Miss Ruth Osborn, and a niece of General Austin. The portrait, a three-quarters

* See Proceedings for December, 1878, pp. 385-399. —EDS.

length, represents a fine-looking woman, dressed in mauve pink satin. An effect of distance is produced by a low landscape on the right of the figure. Its present ownership is unknown.

MADAM BOUCHER. — There is said to be a portrait of this lady, the mother of Captain Cunningham, by Blackburn.

The large picture, by Smibert, of Bishop Berkeley, in the cabin of the ship in which he came to this country, surrounded by his fellow-passengers, mentioned in the Proceedings for December, 1878, p. 475, is in the possession of Yale College. It hung in the south room of the Trumbull Gallery, in New Haven, until, by the erection of the Yale School of the Fine Arts, the old Trumbull Gallery was broken up. The picture now hangs in the large gallery of the Art School. The following description of it is taken from a catalogue of paintings in the Trumbull Gallery, prepared by Mr. Edward C. Herrick, and published in New Haven, in 1852:—

"This painting was executed by Smybert, while the Dean resided at Newport. There is a tradition, that the outline was sketched on the passage from Europe. The principal figure is the DEAN in his clerical habit. The lady with the child is *his wife*; the other lady has been said to be her sister, but more probably is the Miss Handcock who accompanied her to America. The gentleman writing at the table, is *Sir James Dalton*. The gentleman standing behind the ladies, has been thought by some to be a *Mr. Wainwright*; but is undoubtedly *Mr. James*. The other gentleman in brown, is a *Mr. John Moffat*, a friend of the artist. The remaining figure is the artist, *Smybert*. The Dean is resting his hand on a copy of *Plato*, his favorite author; and appears to be dictating to Sir James, who is acting as amanuensis.

"This painting was presented to the College in the year 1808, by Isaac Lothrop, Esq. of Plymouth, Mass. It had been preserved in Boston, in a room occupied by the Smyberts; certainly by the son, and probably by the father. It was purchased and transmitted to the College by Mr. Lothrop, through the agency of the Hon. John Davis, Colonel Joseph May, and Isaac P. Davis, Esq. of Boston. (Mr. Lothrop died at Plymouth, July, 1808, aged 73. He was one of the earliest members of the Massachusetts Historical Society.)"*

Drake, in his "Dictionary of American Biography," says that Smibert painted the only portrait ever taken of Jonathan Edwards.

The following pictures are by this artist:—

* I am indebted to our Corresponding Member, Professor Franklin B. Dexter, of Yale College, for some of these particulars. He writes also that a photograph of the figure of the Dean was taken some ten years ago, and an engraving made from it which serves as the frontispiece to Professor Fraser's Life of Berkeley, published at Oxford, in 1871.

MRS. HOMANS. — This portrait is a half-length, in an oval. The lady is dressed in a green robe cut down in the neck. Her eyes are dark, and so is her hair, which is without powder.

JOHN HOMANS, the son of the above, is represented as a child dressed in a simple white robe, decorated with a blue sash. On the left hand of the picture is a tree.

These pictures are in the possession of Dr. Charles D. Homans of Boston.

MRS. BOUCHER. — This lady was the mother of Mrs. Nathaniel Cunningham, and grandmother of Mrs. James Otis. She is represented as an elderly lady seated in a chair, and dressed in black.

The picture is in the possession of Mr. A. S. Porter of Boston.

BENJAMIN COLMAN. — This gentleman was a son of John Colman, and was born Nov. 28th, 1710. He married, 1737, Hannah Pember-ton. The portrait represents him as a fine-looking man of middle age, dressed in a red coat and waistcoat, a white cravat, and a full white wig. His right hand rests on a table, and in his left he holds a letter. The picture is of three-quarters length.

MRS. BENJAMIN COLMAN. — This portrait is a half-length, and is painted in an oval. It represents a very handsome woman of about thirty years of age. Her dress is of mauve pink, her eyes are dark and brilliant; her hair, which is short in front, and without powder, falls behind in a large curl over her left shoulder.

I have never seen a better portrait of a lady by this artist, and the only one approaching it is that of Mrs. Dr. McSparran, also a very handsome woman.

It is possible that Blackburn painted it, which would account for its excellence.

The portrait of this lady, as well as that of her husband, is in the possession of Mr. Henry Davenport of Boston.

JOHN COLMAN. — He was born January 3d, 1670, and was a brother of the Rev. Benjamin Colman, a celebrated divine, whose portrait was also painted by Smibert.

This picture is a half-length, and painted in an oval. It represents an elderly man with a high nose, bright eyes, and wearing a large periwig without powder. He is dressed in what seems to be a brownish robe, and a white neckcloth; and in the right hand, which is raised to his chest, he holds a pair of gloves.

MRS. JOHN COLMAN. — This lady was Judith, daughter either of Sir Charles Hobby, or, as I think more probably, of Mr. William Hobby, and Anne his wife. The portrait, like that of her husband, is a half-length, painted in an oval, and represents her as having reddish hair and dark eyes. The hair is dressed short in front. Her robe is of a green shade, and on her left shoulder she has a red shawl. The front of the dress is fastened by two jewelled brooches, and the right sleeve is caught up with a similar clasp.

These two portraits are in the possession of Mr. Henry Davenport of Boston.

MR. CHAMBERS.—This is a large picture, and represents an elderly gentleman dressed in a light-colored coat, and wearing a white wig.

It is in the possession of Colonel Charles R. Codman of Boston.

MRS. NATHANIEL CUNNINGHAM.—This lady was the mother of Mrs. James Otis, the wife of the Patriot. The portrait, which is a three-quarters length, represents her as a fine-looking gentlewoman of middle age. Her eyes and hair are dark. Her hair is not powdered, and one curl hangs down upon her left shoulder. Her dress, which is of a greenish tint, is cut low in the neck, and trimmed with muslin, and upon her knees she has a mantle of mauve pink. Her left hand is raised to her breast, while she supports herself with her right resting on a rock, near which lies a little King Charles spaniel. He is resting under a large rock, and in the left-hand distance is a tree and a mountain.

This picture is in the possession of Mrs. E. S. Rogers of Boston.

COLONEL NATHANIEL CUNNINGHAM.—He was the son of Nathaniel Cunningham, who married Miss Boucher. He himself married successively two daughters of a Mr. Kilby. The portrait represents him dressed in a light-colored coat of the fashion of the time.

MRS. NATHANIEL CUNNINGHAM.—This lady was the first wife of Colonel Cunningham. She is painted in a handsome costume of the period.

Both these pictures belong to Mr. A. S. Porter of Boston.

HON. GEORGE JAFFREY.—He was born at Newcastle, N. H., in 1637, and built the old mansion at Jaffries Point. He was Chief Justice of the Superior Court, Speaker of the House of Assembly, a Councillor of the Province, an Officer of the Scots' Charitable Society, and a Petitioner against Governor Cranfield in 1683. He married, Dec. 7th, 1665, Anne Walker. He died Feb. 13th, 1706, at the house of his friend, Colonel Appleton of Ipswich.

This portrait was painted by Smibert from some earlier picture which is not now known to be extant, and is of oval form. He is represented in his robes as Chief Justice, red, trimmed with ermine, and wears a large wig.

This picture is in the possession of a relative, Dr. B. J. Jeffries of Boston.

HON. GEORGE JAFFREY, JR.—He was a son of the Hon. George Jaffrey, and his wife Anne Walker. He was born in 1683, at Newcastle, was graduated from Harvard College in 1702, a Councillor of the Province in 1716. Treasurer of New Hampshire, and Chief Justice of the Superior Court, holding many of the same offices that his father held before him. He built the old Jaffrey House in Daniel street, Portsmouth, and married, first, Jan. 10th, 1740, Sarah Jeffries. Her father was David Jeffries, Esq. of Boston, and her mother Eliza-

beth, daughter of Lieutenant-Governor John Usher. He married second, Sarah, daughter of the Hon. John Wentworth, Lieutenant-Governor of New Hampshire, and widow of Hon. Archibald McPhaedris. Judge Jaffrey died in 1749, soon after this portrait was painted. The picture is an oval, and he is represented in the wig and robes of a Chief Justice.

It is in the possession of a relative, Dr. B. J. Jeffries of Boston.

ROBERT JENKINS.—This picture is life-size, a three-quarters length, and represents a middle-aged gentleman, richly dressed. There is some question as to the Robert Jenkins of whom this is the portrait. There was a merchant of that name, who married a daughter of Louis Deblois, and whose will is dated 1773. There was also a Captain Robert Jenkins, 3d, who commanded the artillery company in 1790, and died in 1797. I incline to think it the portrait of the first named.

The picture is in the possession of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston.

Mr. C. C. SMITH presented the following Memoir of William G. Brooks, which he had been appointed to prepare:—

MEMOIR
OR
WILLIAM GRAY BROOKS.
BY CHARLES C. SMITH.

WILLIAM GRAY BROOKS was descended in the seventh generation from Thomas Brooks, who settled at Watertown as early as 1631, was admitted a Freeman in December, 1636, and was the common progenitor of most of the distinguished men of that name in the later history of Massachusetts. The subject of this notice was born in Portland, Maine, October 12, 1805, and was the fourth son of Cotton Brown Brooks, a merchant of that town, and his wife, Jane Williams, a niece of William Gray, of Salem, and afterward of Boston. The reputation of Mr. Gray as one of the most enterprising and successful merchants of his day, is known to all who are acquainted with the history of American commerce. The family influences under which the boy grew up, could scarcely fail to turn his thoughts toward a business life, and it is not known that his early tastes ever inclined him toward a different career. He was educated in the schools of his native town, and afterward at the Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy at Norwich, Vermont, under the charge of Captain Alden Partridge. Though he did not go to college, he received a much more thorough education, and his studies took a wider range, than was then common with boys who were not preparing themselves for a professional life.

When he was about twenty-one, he came to Boston, and was employed for some time as a clerk in the hardware store of his elder brother, the late Charles Brooks. Before he was twenty-three he became a partner with his brother, and on the retirement of Mr. Charles Brooks, in 1860, he succeeded to the business with a younger partner. He did not withdraw from it until the latter part of 1874, or the beginning of 1875, when he had nearly reached the age of seventy. At

that time his advancing years and the unpromising aspect of all commercial affairs, made him not unwilling to seek relief from the anxieties of active business.

Mr. Brooks had little taste for public offices, but he did not refuse to render such service as his fellow-citizens occasionally sought from him. From 1847 to 1850, inclusive, he was a member of the Common Council of Boston; and in 1869 he was one of the Representatives from Boston in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. These, it is believed, are the only public offices which he ever held. He was unhesitating in his political convictions, but he was naturally disinclined to controversy, and he confined himself to an unobtrusive discharge of his public duties, taking little or no part in the debates.

He was chosen a member of the Historical Society at the Annual Meeting in April, 1861, and from that time until a few months before his death, he was seldom absent from the meetings of the Society. For eight years he was a member of the Standing Committee,—1862 to 1865, 1867 to 1870, and 1875 to 1877,—and he was twice chairman of the Committee. The Annual Report, which he drew up in 1865, contained many important suggestions, and is an excellent model of what such a report should be. In July, 1868, he was appointed one of the committee through whose successful exertions the Society was enabled to come into possession of the diaries and letter books of Judge Samuel Sewall. Two years afterward,—in June, 1870,—he was appointed one of the committee to superintend the reconstruction of the building occupied by the Society. In this capacity he was unwearied in his exertions to carry out the objects for which the work was undertaken, and rendered services which will not be soon forgotten. His close personal attention to all the matters intrusted to him was never once relaxed, and was continued even after the Society had returned to its greatly improved rooms. To the printed Proceedings Mr. Brooks contributed little; but, at the meeting in July, 1866, he made an interesting communication in regard to the rank of students at Harvard College, and at the special meeting in March, 1871, he communicated some extracts from a diary kept by Nathaniel Cutting at the close of the last century, with a biographical notice of the writer. Besides reading these and one or two other short papers, he occasionally took part in the informal discussions. In January, 1874, he was appointed one of the committee for publishing a selection from the Belknap Papers. In May, 1877, he removed to North

Andover, and after that time his declining health and strength rendered it difficult for him to come to Boston, and his attendance at the meetings became infrequent. He died in the evening of January 6, 1879.

Mr. Brooks was married, September 9, 1833, to Mary Ann, a daughter of Col. John Phillips of Andover, by whom he had six sons, four of whom, with their mother, survive.

The personal qualities of Mr. Brooks were such as to win for him the confidence and esteem of all who were brought into intimate relations with him, and the warm and appreciative tributes to his memory, paid at the meeting of the Society, held on the day of his funeral, only expressed the feelings of all his associates. They may be found in the record of the January meeting, and leave nothing to be added here.